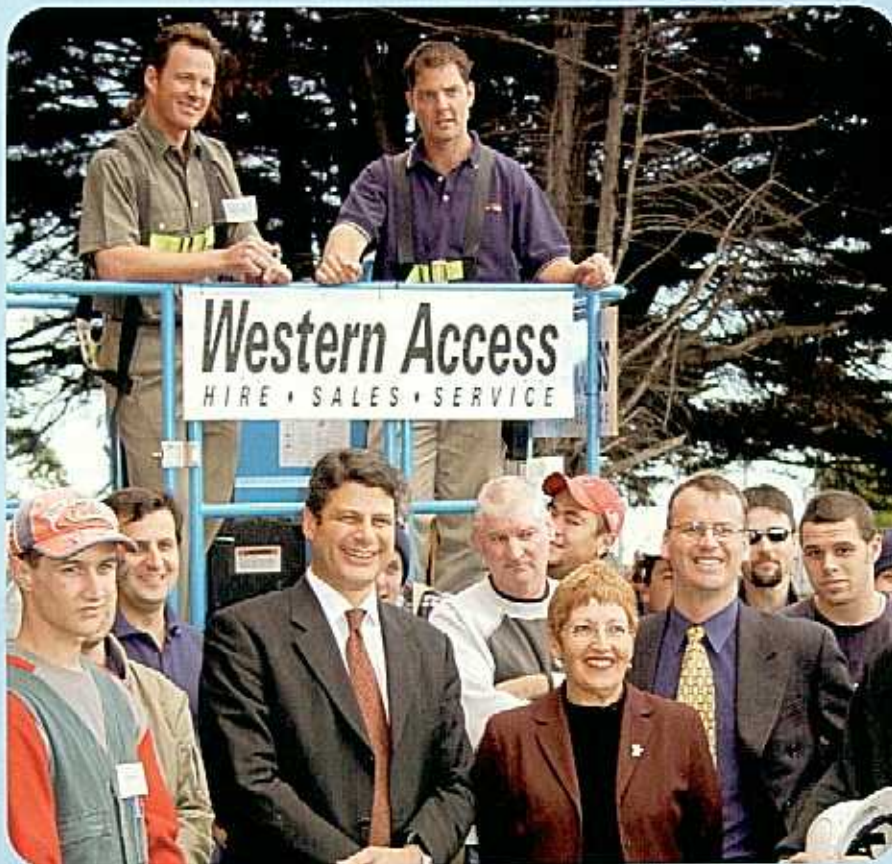




Proud City 2000

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Premier boost for community arts and jobs project



Front, left to right: Premier of Victoria, The Hon. Steve Bracks and Hobsons Bay Mayor, Cr Angela Altair with project organisers Nigel Edwards and Darren Williams (top left of frame).

Works to transform the Newport Sub Station into a vibrant arts centre received another injection of life from the State Government recently when the Premier of Victoria, The Hon. Steve Bracks announced over \$320,000 of community jobs funding for the project.

Hobsons Bay Mayor, Cr Angela Altair said that this project had captured the imaginations of, not only the people of Hobsons Bay, but also the people of Melbourne.

"I welcome the State Government's support for this great community initiative. The community jobs program funding will really see the arts project take shape," Cr Altair said.

"The Premier's announcement means that 40 people over 32 weeks will be working on the Sub Station building and surrounds.

"Hobsons Bay Council has provided \$35,000 to support the community jobs project.

"This is a win win for the project, the community and the people who will work at the site, receiving training and hands-on experience to enhance their employment skills," she said.

Local Blackshaw Ward Councillor, Cr Brad Matheson said that for many years, the Newport Sub Station has been a blight on our local area.

"This project will eventually transform the Sub Station into a vibrant community arts hub for all Hobsons Bay residents to use and appreciate," Cr Matheson said.

"Cleaning up what can only be described as an eyesore will also ensure that the neighbourhood character of Newport is protected and improved for its residents and for the people who visit the local area."

Fellow Blackshaw Ward Councillor, Cr Bill Baarini said, "The organisers, Mr Darren Williams and Mr Nigel Edwards are a true inspiration to this community and have managed to get this worthwhile project off the ground through hard work and passion. I congratulate both of them.

"I also thank the State Government for its magnificent support and look forward to seeing the results of this program," Cr Baarini concluded.



The Newport Sub Station in its current state.



The Sub Station building in Fitzroy following a similar refurbishment project.

